## M3M Machine Gun System, Ground Assessment

**Purpose:** Examine the effectiveness and suitability of a high rate of fire .50 cal machine gun for support of ground forces.

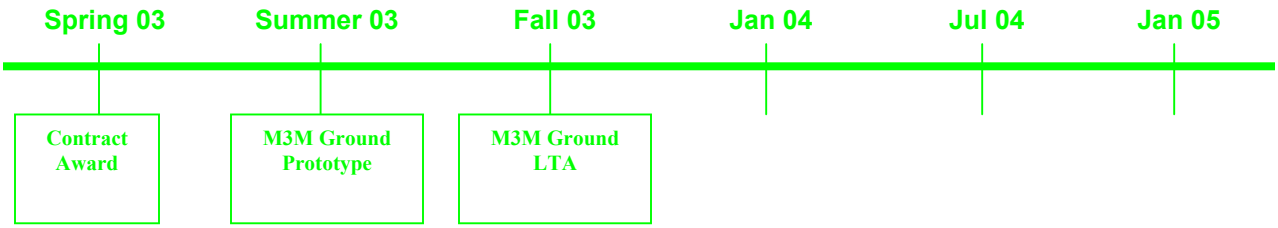
**Background:** This project began as an initiative within Project Metropolis in conjunction with assessments of a M3M Air .50 cal Machine Gun. The initial thinking was that a high rate of fire .50 cal (high rate of fire is defined as >800 rounds per minute) would have inherent advantages when used from ground platforms; e.g., the M3 tripod or armored HMMWV. Assessments conducted by Project Metropolis concluded that any further assessments would require the M3M manufacturer to design and build a traversing and elevation (T&E) component integrated into the M3M gun and cradle. Currently the Lab is contracting with FN Herstal to design and build a T&E. Once the T&E is received additional assessments will commence.

**Description:** The M3M Heavy Machine Gun is an experimental .50 caliber System modified for ground use from the M3M Air System designed for helicopters with the following characteristics:

- Maximum Range 6500 meters
- Maximum Effective Range 1850 meters
- Firing Rate 850 + rpm
- Total Weight 78.9 lbs

**Deliverable Product(s):** Prototypes for operational experimentation and requirements documentation.

**Milestones:**




**Action Officer: (703) 784-3425**